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Docket ID number EPA-HQ-OPP-20080650
Petition for Rulemaking Requesting EPA Regulate Nanoscale Silver Products as Pesticides; Notice of Availability

60-Day Extension Request for Notice and Comment Period

Dear Mr. Martin or To Whom It May Concern:

Friends of the Earth (FoE) applauds the agency for opening a docket on our group's petition and working to address the important issue of nanosilver. FoE intends on fully participating in the notice and comment process and welcomes this and any other opportunities to communicate with the agency on this topic.

We write at this time to respectfully request a 60-day extension of the January 20, 2009 deadline for public comment on the petition, to March 21, 2009. As the agency has recognized, this is an important issue and as such the agency should gather as much information as possible about its next steps from all interested parties. Between now and January 20th is a very busy transitional time for many interested parties and we are concerned that the current deadline will not be sufficient for some parties to provide comment. The petition and nano-silver issue present many complicated legal and scientific issues and meaningful public input will require a substantial amount of time and effort. The requested extension is necessary to provide interested parties an appropriate opportunity to develop meaningful comments on the petition.

In addition, as the agency is aware, January 20, 2009 is the official transition day to the new Obama Administration. The new administration will undoubtedly have

many other pressing priorities and we are concerned this issue will fall between the cracks. Extending the deadline will allow comments to also be received by the new administration.

Respectfully submitted,

Ian Illuminato
Health and Environment Campaigner
Friends of the Earth U.S.